

**DECLARATION**  
**of the participants of the conference on cooperation**  
**between technical universities**  
**of the countries-participants of the Commonwealth of Independent States**  
**and the Baltic States**

April 24, 2008 Moscow

On April 24, 2008, Bauman Moscow State Technical University held an extended meeting of the Council of the Technical Universities Association with the participation of the Coordinating Council for Engineering and Technology of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, the heads of national technical universities of the countries-participants of the CIS and Baltic countries, academic and public structures.

At the meeting the topical issues were raised - those of the development of national systems of higher professional education, the activities of technical universities, their role in building a common scientific, technological and educational space. The participants discussed the problems of development of cooperation between national technical universities of the CIS and Baltic countries and universities - members of the Technical Universities Association.

The participants of the meeting emphasized the special significance of development of international cooperation at the present stage.

The collapse of the former USSR and its single economic space resulted in destruction of scientific, technological, educational ties, which had been forming and existing for decades. Hence, science and education started experiencing poor funding, the effectiveness of scientific research declined, the "brainpower" drifted away, as well as technology, scientific and technical information. This caused significant damage to the scientific and educational environment of all countries.

At present, no national scientific, technological, educational system can exist in isolation and develop independently. Education and improvement of professional skills, generation of new ideas and technologies is the main driving force of economic growth, as well as social cohesion.

Technical universities and associations that join their efforts and activities play an important part in building a common scientific, technological and educational space, developing the strategies, policies and plans to provide an innovative economy, creating the enabling environment for transfer of knowledge and technology in the post-Soviet space.

The key to solving the problems is in international cooperation, development of integration processes, direct bilateral and multilateral scientific and technical ties between higher education institutions, cooperation in the training and retraining of engineering and scientific personnel. To tackle the problem, we should take concrete, concerted practical steps aimed at the development of national systems of higher professional education.

To implement these tasks, the participants of the conference consider that it is crucial for technical universities to:

- foster their efforts to effectively use the universities potential, their experience and achievements in priority areas of modernization of education systems, modern science, engineering and technology in order to fully promote the innovative development of national economies;

- actively cooperate to improve the systems of university technical education, exchange the best practices of university activity, promote the effective spread of knowledge and modern educational technologies, as well as the formation and implementation of new standards, agreed approaches and criteria that establish quality requirements for training specialists;

- provide every possible support and promote the preservation and development of scientific and pedagogical schools of technical universities, help talented young teachers, scientists, specialists;

- take part in the work of the Academic Methodological Associations of universities in various areas of training;

- constantly increase the practice and develop new forms of cooperation, systematic interaction, exchange the experience and knowledge between technical universities in order to restore integration links in the educational, scientific and technological sphere;

- exchange information to have a better understanding of various qualification systems, training methods, the specifics of the activities of technical universities, management of education;

- promote the support of the Russian language as a means of interethnic communication, bearing in mind that cultural diversity and knowledge of foreign languages are integral elements of integrating innovative societies;

- more efficiently use modern information and communication technologies in education, providing all opportunities to create a single information environment, which could bring about the integration of an educational resource of significant potential;

- support the proposal to form coordinating centers on certain areas of cooperation on the basis of a number of technical universities.

The participants of the enlarged meeting of the Council of the Technical Universities Association with the participation of the Coordinating Council for Engineering and Technology of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, the heads of the national technical universities of the CIS and Baltic countries, representatives of academic and public organizations stressed the importance of this event, showed their approval of the activities of the Technical Universities Association, aimed at developing cooperation and interaction of higher technical educational institutions.

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